

Dennis, Mass.

April 24, 1964

Dear Paddy:

There is nothing I would like better to do than to attend the 25th Reunion of the Class of '39, M. E. S. Your very nice letter (and most interesting enclosures) would persuade me to do so if anything could. Isn't it wonderful that so many of your class are able to go to the meetings? I think you and Adrienne have done a fine piece of organizing and publicity.

As far as I am concerned I just do not feel like facing up to the trip. No, I am not ill - I drive my car on Cape Cod (very seldom off) 121

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but my car is getting pretty old, and I am afraid it would balk at the super-highways between here and Toronto. Other means of travel are unfortunately out of the question.

I shall be thinking of every one of you and wishing that I could hear all the news and the reminiscences going around. I have spent considerable time this last winter going over a lot of old professional material which I had saved — programmes, letters, photographs, clippings, etc, and putting them into a scrap book. I do not know who would ever want to look at the scrap book, but it has afforded me a lot of pleasure and I certainly have done some reminiscing by myself.

Do you really want a thumb-nail

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sketch of my life since 1949?

STAFF
SOMERS.

I am in the same place I came to after leaving Toronto only in a different house. The old house I retired to turned out to be too difficult to heat and keep in repair, so I sold it in 1955 and built a small 4-room house, which has been a joy. Its chief weakness is that it does not hold as many guests from Canada and elsewhere as I would like, having only one guest room.

Since I left Toronto I have put in nine years of work in the small Dennis Library. It was only part time work, but in the summer this increased over a hundred per cent. Cape Cod has become a terrific Tourist mecca, but it is also being spoiled for the people who liked its old charm and peaceful quiet.

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There are many retired people arriving each year and there is much social, club and church activity going on in the winter.

I send you my very best wishes for a joyous and satisfying reunion. I hope you will look forward to others, especially your 50th! It comes sooner than you think!

With love to you all -
Florence Corners

Gwen (Baalim) Holland,
2425 Abbott St.,
Kelowna, B.C.

Dear M.E.S. Alumnae:

Sorry I can't be with you all, to join in the fun, but will be there in spirit anyway.

It's hard to pack twenty-five years into a few paragraphs, but here is a summary since leaving M.E.S.

1939-42: Taught at the Y.W. in London, Ont. Met George Holland and was married Aug. 19/42 at home in Lethbridge, (Dieppe Day).

1942-45: Travelled back and forth across Canada while George was in the Army as a Lieutenant in the Artillery. Returned to London from Halifax and had our first daughter, Anne Irene, on April 11/45.

1945-47: Settled down in our first home, with George back in the corrugated box industry. I had a nice part time job teaching P.E. at Central Collegiate. (Who said an M.E.S. grad couldn't teach in High Schools?)

1947-54: Moved to Calgary, one of my favorite cities, where Mary Elizabeth was born on May 4/49, and George Roland (Geordie) was born on March 27/53.

1955-57: Moved to Vancouver, where George was transferred by the Powell River Company. Had some nice get-togethers with Dorothy Barber Lupton.

1957-58: Moved to Saskatoon, and enjoyed the beautiful city and friendly people very much.

1958-64: Back to British Columbia and the lovely Okanagan Valley, where George decided to get into business on his own, in the place we both wanted to live. Kelowna is a beautiful city (13,000 population) and we are very happy here. George has the B.C. Franchise for Tastee-Freez Drive-in Restaurants, 12 now operating.

Kelowna is a Four-Season Playground. We ski all winter and into Spring at an elevation of 7300 feet on Big White Mountain, only 40 miles from our home. We swim, fish, water ski, or cruise on Okanagan Lake, 70 miles long. Golfing sometimes up to Christmas on an excellent 18 hole course, and while I love the game, am not too good at it. (I must sound like the Chamber of Commerce, but it's all true.)

I am much busier in Community Work here than in other cities. Hospital Auxiliary work is the most time consuming, and I just completed my term as President. This week is our biggest project, the "Annual Blossom Fair" held on the Hospital grounds. We work hard from January to May, organizing fifteen different booths, and expect to make over \$2,000. (My excuse for being late with this letter.)

The last three years during the winter months I've headed up a Keep Fit Class for an hour each week at the Kelowna Yacht Club. Have also been doing volunteer teaching at the School for Retarded Children, which is very challenging work. I have a class of 15 girls and women, ranging in age from 7 to 32. Sure would appreciate some ideas on lesson plans for such a group. Good old "Dorothy La Salle" dances are the most popular activity, also relays, tumbling exercises and ball games.

Now for a bit about the children. Anne, 19, is 5'9" and has just finished her first term at U.B.C., (Secondary Education). She is an accomplished rider, and has her own Jumper Hunter Mare. A good speed swimmer and teaches at playgrounds. She has the high-jump record for Interior B.C. High Schools and starred on the Basketball team.

Mary at 15 is 5'8" and is also a good rider. She loves basketball and swims well, but is not keenly competitive. She plays the violin in the Junior High School orchestra, and is our best student.

Geordie, at 11, is starting to shoot up. He's very active and stays on the skinny side. He loves science, skiing, baseball, football, belongs to the Cubs and puts up with piano lessons. George is 6'5", so I must expect the kids to be tall.

I have rambled on long enough, so will stop all this and wish you all the best for another twenty-five years. (Let's hold the 50th Reunion in Kelowna!)

Love to all of you,

Gwen

Gwen Baalim Holland.

Patty: Am enclosing photo proofs in case you have a chance to pass them around. Would you mind returning them please?

Adrienne

Dear M.E.S. Amies:

Those happy years of 1937 - 1939! 25 years ago! - It seems impossible, but my thoughts return to those wonderful days at Margaret Eaton - the friends we made - our guiding staff - happy days - carefree days -

After leaving school, and in the fall of 1939, I accepted a position with the Y.M.C.A. in New Westminster as Girls' Secretary. This was quite a challenge as a Y.W.C.A. had ceased to exist, and they were setting up a Girls' and Women's Program with the Y.M.C.A. Also that fall of course, war broke out, and in 1940 I went to Vernon, B.C., where I was on staff at a school set up for Lady Patricia Eden. Lady Eden had originally headed a school in England, but at the outbreak of war she brought about 25 children to Canada. She is the sister-in-law of Sir Anthony Eden, and was most charming, as were the children, all of whom came from very wealthy families, and a few of whom were titled. Unfortunately, Lady Eden was most unhappy, and did not make friends with the people of Vernon, who were extremely kind to her, and the following year she moved the entire school to Quebec, but none of the staff followed.

After this, I returned to Vancouver to take a Secretarial Course, and when this was completed, I worked for an Insurance Company until I was married in May of 1947.

My husband Dick, is from Regina, and I met him while doing Voluntary Service Work at the Officers's Club in Vancouver, during the war. He was a Pilot with the R.C.A.F. We lived in Vancouver for 9 years, and then built this home where we now live in South Burnaby. Dick is the District Auditor with the Unemployment Insurance Commission, in New Westminster.

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